

Murd'ring Ministers

Issue #57

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STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY and other multi-player games. See GAME OPENINGS Section for details. MM is published somewhat erratically but nearly uses 4 week deadlines most of the time. Subscriptions cost \$5.50 for 12 issues; or 50¢/issue. The publisher is Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304 - Phone: (805) 834-8409.

Well, I've got a lot of BS to ramble on about this time around, so where to begin? How about what I've been doing lately? (Or not doing!) Easter Vacation week saw Char and I escaping for a much needed vacation to the central California coast. We had a great time - most relaxing! I'm ready to go again tomorrow. From that point until now I've taken a little vacation away from DIP. I owe numerous letters which I hope to get written as soon as I get this issue out into the mails. So to any of those who are in games with me and you haven't heard from me in a long time should not worry about me. I'm still very much alive and kicking and will soon be back into the diplomatic groove. I will include a few notes to those who have written me recently in this mailing . . .

Well, I thought I might just get ambitious enough to get together a double issue this time. However, the only way I could do that would be to delay getting the zine into your hands by several days so . . . Instead I'll go ahead and cram what I can into 12 pages and get it off to you guys. Then I'll get to work on the next one and may ~~just~~ just get a rare all-reading issue to you. We'll see how it goes.

I've gotten to see several new zines recently that I'll mention a little later in detail. But an old favorite that showed up about a week ago was DIPLOMACY WORLD. DW #33 is 44 pgs long and (as usual) full of good reading, articles, a variant and map, a demo game, and more. Subscriptions are \$8.00/4 issues and is published quarterly. Subscriptions should be mailed to Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024.

The most ~~ix~~ recent EVERYTHING (#55) is out. EVERYTHING lists all gamestarts and finishes in the postal DIP Hobby. Subscriptions are available from Bill Quinn, 1225 Ridgecrest, Orlando, FL 32806 at the rate of 3¢/pg. (usually about \$1.00/issue). The current Boardman Number Custodian, Don Ditter is looking forward to stepping down and has begun a search for a successor. If you feel you have the time and are willing to put in the effort to make sure all the work gets done that is involved with the custodianship, then contact Don Ditter, 63 South Main St., Florida, NY 10921.

In this issue ~~xxxxxx~~ were a few interesting facts recorded. The end of 1980HS was reported. In this "Hobby History" game, Jennifer King (perhaps the hobby's only black female participant ever) got Kuszynskied! Jennifer dropped out of the hobby right after Dan knocked her out of this game (which happened right after Bob Olsen and I combined to blast her out of 80HY). Also in this game as starters were: Dave Manuel (14 yr. old publisher of THE CHAMBER), Jeff Albrecht (long-time MMer and an excellent player), and Bill Hart (#7 on Stafford's Influencial Player Rating). Also of note is ye olde Main Minister picking up 1/3 CP for part of a three-way draw when I took over Dan's Germany --- and didn't submit a single order!

1981D SUMMER 1911 - German A Mar-r-Gas/a/; French A Bre-r-Gas/a/; English F Swe-r-NWY.
 1981D FALL 1911 ENGLAND GAINS SLIGHT EDGE IN STRUGGLE OF GIANTS - BUT WHO IS TURKEY FOR?
 England (Arnawoodian):

F NWY-s-A StP; A STP-H; F NTH-s-F Den; F DEN-s-A Mun-Kie;
 A Mun-KIE; A Ruh-HOL; A Bel-s-A Ruh-Hol/d/-r-Pic,Ruh,OTB;
 F BRE-H; F MID-s-F Bre; F MAR-H; F LYO-s-F Mar; F ADR-Tri;
 F NAP-H; F ION-s-Turkish F Aeg-Gre.

France (Gray):

A Gas-Bre/NSU/; A PAR-s-A Gas-Bre/NSU/.

Germany (Langley):

F SWE-H; F BOT-s-F Swe; A Mos-LVN; A UKR-MOS; A Gal-BOH;
 A Sil-MUN; A BER-s-A Sil-Mun; A TRI-Ven; A PIE-Ven;
 A Gre-ALB; F Kie-H/d/-r-Hel,Bal,OTB; A Hol-BEL; A BUR-s-
 A Hol-Bel; A Gas-Spa/NSU/.

Turkey (MacFarlane):

F Aeg-GRE; A BUL-s-F Aeg-Gre; F Con-AEG; F Bla-CON.

Winter 1911 AND Spring 1912 are due May 13th, 1983. There is a call for a concession to Germany, AND a proposal for a G/E/T draw. Please vote with your next orders remembering that there are two separate proposals and that 'NVR' = 'Yes' vote!

1981D 1911 Supply Center Chart

England- Home,Nwy,StP,~~StP~~,Por,Spa,Tun,Nap,Rom,~~StP~~,~~StP~~,Den,MAR,KIE,HOL,BRE...(15)+1
 France- Par,~~StP~~.....(1) 0 (1 shrt.)
 Germany- Ber,~~StP~~,~~StP~~,A Vie,Tri,Bud,Ven,Ser,Rum,~~StP~~,Sev,Mos,~~StP~~,War,~~StP~~,MUN,SWE,BEL.(13) 0
 (was 1 short)
Turkey- Home,Bul,GRE.....(5)+1

1981D Press-

SWITZERLAND: With the fall of France imminent, can England be far behind? Our analysts point out that England is now at war with everyone. But then, everyone is at war with everyone.

1981CT JAF Orphan WINTER 1908 TURKS UNDERGO MASSIVE RETREATS IN THE SNOW! SUFFER SAME FATE AS NAPOLEON IN 1812!!

Austria- Disbands A Gal, A Ser-r-OTB. Italy- No Adj
 England- Builds A ION Russia- No Adj
 France- Builds A MAR Turkey- F Ion-r-OTB,A Ven-r-OTB,A Gal-r-OTB,
 A StP-r-OTB - /NRR/.

1981CT SPRING 1909 NORTH BELONGS TO ENGLISH AS FROGS STAB INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN!

Austria (Johnson): A Bud-Tri; A VEN-s-A Bud-Tri; A Tya-VIE.
 England (Fassio)*: A StP-LVN; A Nwy-STP; F BAR-s-A Nwy-StP; F Swe-BAL; F Nth-SKA;
 F Hel-NTH; A Kie-BER; A Hol-KIE; A ION-H.
 France (Hanson): F Ion-EAS; F Tys-ION; F Wes-TUN; F Lyo-TYS; A Mar-PIE; F Eng-MID;
 A PRU & A MUN-s-English A Kie-Ber.
 Italy (Williams)** NMR! A ROM,F NAP-H.
 Russia (Rodriguez): A Ber-H/d/-r-Sil,OTB.
 Turkey (Greenwood)*** NMR! F BLA,A RUM,~~StP~~ A WAR,A SER,F GRE,F ADR-H; F Tri-H/d/-r-Alb,OTB..

Fall 1909 due May 13, 1983.

*Mark Fassio will be moving around some in the near future thanks to Uncle Sam. His address for April 7-13 will be RD5, Box 1105, Leechburg, PA 15656. His address from April 17-May 14 will be 1Lt. Mark A. Fassio, General Delivery, (Exercise Solid Shield), Hurlburt Field, FL 32544. (Whew!)

**I will not call a standby for Jim as I feel he will submit orders next itme. If he doesn't, however, then Italy will be placed in CD.

***Would John Beck, 2406 18th AveNW, Olympia, WA 98502 please standby for Turkey?

"He's a very devil."

TWELFTH-NIGHT III, iv, 304.

1981CT Press-

ENGLAND-FRANCE: Thank you for your support; let us press forward and crush the expansionist Turk! Continued success in your sector.

ENGLAND-ITALY: I hope we can bid you a "welcome aboard!" rather than sit through a Stewart-like zombie caricature of Italy again! Good hunting this game; you hold the key, in my opinion, Jim.

ENGLAND-TURKEY: You shall continue to grow, but now you must fight for it. Good gaming, friend Turk!

ENGLAND-AUSTRIA: And now to The Great Unknown, Stan Johnson. Well, Arch-Duke, what is it to be? Will we see Cross-Game City, or a genuine attempt at winning this one logically?

AUSTRIA: "More light and light it grows, more dark and dark our woes."

ENGLAND-RUSSIA: Nothing personal, Al, but eradicating Russians is an obsession, and you inherited this pigeon.

* * * * *

1981AY WINTER 1908

Austria- Builds F TRI

Germany- Builds A MUN & A BER (plays one short this year)

England- Disbands F Nwg/NSU/; F Nwy-r-OTB
(unordered retreat)

Turkey- A Mos-r-LVN, Disbands A Sev.

France- No Adj

1981AY SPRING 1909 SCARLET TIDE SWEEPS INTO TURKISH EMPIRE!

Austria (Lucas): A Apu-VEN; F Tri-ALB; F Ion-EAS; F AEG-s-F Bul(sc)-Con; F BUL(sc)-Con; A SER-Bul; A GRE-s-A Ser-Bul; A Rum-SEV; A UKR-s-A Rum-Sev; A Bud-RUM; A GAL-s-A Bud-Rum.

England (Gray): F ENG-s-French A Bur-Bel/NSO/; F Den-HEL; F Swe-BAL.

France (Winger): A PIC-Bel; A BUR-s-A Pic-Bel; A PAR-Bre; F MID-Bre; A Pie-TXX.

Germany (Albrecht): A MUN-Bur; A RUH-s-F Bel; F BEL-s-F Nth; A Yor-LON; A Kie-DEN; F Nwy-SWE; F NTH-s-A Kie-Den; A Ber-PRU; A STP-s-A Mos; A MOS-s-Austrian A Rum-Sev.

Turkey (McCloud): A Lvn-WAR; F BIA-s-A Con; A CON-H; A Arm-SMY; F LPL-H.

Fall 1909 due May 13, 1983. There is a proposal for an A/G draw. Please vote with your 1981AY Press- next orders remembering that 'NVR' = 'Yes' vote.

BUDAPEST-PARIS: Nice try, Stabbo! What are you doing, trying out for the NIXON AWARD?

PARIS-BUDAPEST: I didn't mean to stab you, I knew you'd bounce me, really I did!

BERLIN-PARIS: I keep hearing about this Cavalry that will be coming to do something. But no one tells me what the Cavalry is coming to do nor what color uniforms the Cavalry will be wearing. I think the suspense will get to me long before the Cavalry does.

PARIS-BERLIN: I hope I wasn't out of line with that last "Calvary" remark.

AUSTRIA-RB: What do I know? I didn't even miss my two units. Glad to see Larry's back.

RB-AUSTRIA: You're glad to see Larry's back? So you could plunge your dagger into it!

* * * * *

"Swift as a shadow, short as any dream,
Brief as the lightning in the collied
night,

That, in a spleen, unfolds both heaven
and earth,

And ere a man hath power to say, "Be-
hold!"

The jaws of darkness do devour it up:
So quick bright things come to confu-
sion."

1982HZ WINTER 1902

Austria- Disbands A Bud	Italy- Builds F ROM, F NAP
England- Disbands F Nwy	Russia- No Adj
France- F Nth-r-LON, Builds F MAR	Turkey- Builds A CON
Germany- No Adj	

1982HZ SPRING 1903 ENGLAND UNDER SIEGE AS AUSTRIAN EMPIRE NEARS DESTRUCTION!

Austria (Rodriguez):	A Vie-GAL; A BOH-Mun.
England (Cannon):	A Yor-LPL; F Edi-YOR; F ENG-Lon.
France (Stafford):	A BRE & A POR-H; F NAT-CLY; F LON-s-German F Hel-Nth; F Spa(sc)-MID; F Mar-SPA(sc).
Germany (Ozog):	A BEL & A DEN-H; A SIL-Mun; A Tya-VIE; F Nth-NWG; F Hel-NTH;
Italy (Torkelson):	A Alb-VEN; F ADR-c-A Alb-Ven; F Nap-ION; F TUN-H; F Rom-TYS.
Russia (P.Lahue):	NMR! F SEV, A UKR, A WAR, A STP, F SWE - all H; A Rum-H/d/-r- Bud, OTB.
Turkey (Jones):	A Con-RUM; F BLA-c-A Con-Rum; A BUL & A SER-s-A Con-Rum; A ARM-Sev.

Fall 1903 due May 13, 1983.

* Would Stan Johnson, 10 Pine St., Edison, NJ 08817 please standby for Russia?

1982HZ Press-

F/G ALLIANCE-ENGLAND: We don't think it's worth it for you to defend your island whatever the cost may be, for soon you will be dead anyway. Why don't you roll over and play dead then try your skills against lesser folk in MM-19? You can fight in all those places you mentioned, but the test of a real fighter is the one who can fight underwater while holding his breath.

ENGLAND-F/G: I congratulate you on a perfectly coordinated attack. I mean, what could I do? If I had moved A Yor-Lon, I would lose Liverpool in '03. If I also moved F Eng-Lon, then France would gain the Mid-Atlantic and I would still lose Liverpool. Argh!

KAISER-TSAR: Yes, I can see where the big shift in your foreign policy can be an advantage to your southern neighbor. For instance, it will then be an advantage for your southern neighbor to chew up your southern front. Clod! By the way, Happy Birthday.

ENGLAND-THE FREE WORLD: Napoleon and Hitler are on the march. It will be up to you to stop them. I shall continue to fight on, but I fear I am not long for this game.

SWITZERLAND-TSAR PHILIP: Why don't you stop worrying about and killing the communists, become one yourself, then start worrying about the sneaky Germans!

* * * * *

1983F FALL 1901 RUSSIA STYMIED AS REST OF EUROPE EXPAND EMPIRES IN 1901!

Austria (Hare):	F Alb-GRE; A SER-s-F Alb-Gre; A VIE-Tri.
England (Donop):	A WAL-H; F Nth-NWY; F Lon-NTH.
France (Coburn):	A Spa-POR; A Gas-SPA; F Bre-MID.
Germany (Gardner):	A Kie-HOL; F DEN-Swe; A SIL-War.
Italy (Cannon):	A VEN-Tri; A Apu-TUN; F ION-c-A Apu-Tun.
Russia (Scheifler):	F ARM-Sev; A UKR-Rum; A WAR-H; F BOT-Swe.
Turkey (Schiwautz):	F BLA-Sev; A ANK-Arm; A BUL-Rum.

Winter 1901 due May 13, 1983.

1983F 1901 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, SER, GRE.....	(5)+2
England- Home, NWY.....	(4)+1
France- Home, POR, SPA.....	(5)+2
Germany- Home, HOL, DEN.....	(5)+2
Italy- Home, TUN.....	(4)+1
Russia- Home.....	(4) 0
Turkey- Home, BUL.....	(4)+1

(1983F Press on next pg.)

ITALY-RUSSIA: F Sev-Arm? It appears you have been duped.
 VIENNA-ROME: No, Michael, you heard it wrong. Trieste is not nice this time of year.

CONSTANTINOPEL: The Russian invasion of Turkey has outraged all of Europe. Germany and Austria have promised full support to counter this blatant act of aggression.

ITALIAN WAR OFFICE: The Italian Fifth Fleet, during maneuvers in the Ionian, was attacked by a contingent of the Libyan Navy (three garbage scows with 2 .50 caliber machine guns (each!)); before they were blown out of the water, it was learned that the reason they showed up at all was because the Fifth Fleet was supposedly violating Libyan waters, which is odd, since the Fleet was supposed to be violating the territorial waters of Greece. Italy is now in the process of teaching the upity Libyans exactly who is boss.

FREE TUNIS (Just Before the Capture of Tunis by Italian Forces): Residents braced themselves for the brutal assault of Italian troops expected at any time and prayed that French help would be on the way.

* * * * *

1982IT SPRING 1902 KING OF ENGLAND VACATIONS IN LAKE TAHOE U.S.A. - LOSES TRACK OF MILITARY MATTERS!!

Austria (Gerham): A BUD-Gal; A TRI-Bud; F Alb-GRE; A Ser-s-F Alb-Gre/d/-r-Alb, OTB.
 England (Baldwin): NMR! F LPL, F LON, F NTH, F BEL - all H; A Nwy-H/d/-r-Fin, OTB.
 France (Wilson): F Por-MID; F Mar-SPA(sc); A Spa-GAS; A Par-BUR; F Bre-ENG.
 Germany (J. Lahue): A Mun-BOH; A Ber-MUN; A Kie-RUH; A DEN-H; F HOL-Nth.
 Italy (Stowe): A VEN-H; A TUN-H; F Ion-ARG; F Nap-ION.
 Russia (Hugh): A Ukr-GAL; A WAR-s-A Ukr-Gal; F SEV-s-A Rum; A RUM-s-Turkish
 A Bul-Ser; F StP(nc)-NWY; F SWE-e-F StP-Nwy.
 Turkey (Albrecht): A Bul-SER; A Con-BUL; F Ank-CON; F Smy-EAS.

Fall 1902 due May 13, 1983.

* I will not call a standby for Baldwin as I'm sure he will retain the position. He will never hear the end of this and I know he will submit orders next time, so count on Baldwin retaining the English throne.

1982IT Press-

RUSSIA-FRANCE: There's a formal invitation extended to the heirs of the French Throne to meet the Russian Greeting Committee, for tea and crumpets, in Yorkshire City Hall. Reservations are on a stand-by basis and a solid commitment has to be understood.. Please reply directly.

TURKEY-RUSSIA: Huh? I didn't realize that I am trying to help out the Austrian commuters. Austrians have always been some of the best commuters in all of Dipdom; they usually commute because they would rather switch than fight; by game's end, they will all be wearing uniforms of a color other than red.

RUSSIA-GM: Ron, would I go for Austria? Now come on, you would do that, wouldn't you??? I've only been taught by you and you're the best -- right??

GM-Russia: What, me attack Austria? Now, Bill, you know I'd only attack Austria if you were Austria! (Ha!).

ITALY-EVERYBODY: I must apologize for my lack of correspondence. I appreciate sincerely those of you who have kept up with me and your understanding. I am graduating in May and am trying to do so with my 4.0 average intact (not likely at this point). I am working full-time and am at school full-time. I am also looking for a new job more in line with my training. (A couple of strong possibilities, but nothing sure...) Needless to say, DIP has been getting the short end. Thank you all for hanging in there with me, and any finger-crossing, etc., done on my behalf will be deeply appreciated. (And that's just my professional life!!...)

RUSSIA-GERMANY: Do we have a pact?

ITALY-GERMANY: I have to say that the nicest rejection letter I have ever received came from IBM . . . but it's still a rejection . . .

(1982IT Press con'd next pg.)

ITALY-RUSSIA: Please don't wait until the end of the game to toast me. Carry on, dear fellow, carry on. (Personally, I'm partial to Bailey's Irish Cream . . . VERY partial. Send donations to 4263 Lakeway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205 . . .)

TURKEY-RUSSIA: On second thought, maybe I am helping the Austrian commuters. I am helping them to commute from red to yellow -- everybody likes a little sunshine in their lives. Back to my original train (referring to commuters) of thought which had something to do with ill-gotten gains.

1982CO SUMMER 1904 Russian A Arm-r-SEV

1982CO FALL 1904 INVASION OF TURKEY EMINENT AS ALLIED FORCES ENCIRCLE TURKISH HOMELAND!

ITALY ENDS NEUTRALITY - ATTACKS FRANCE AND TURKEY BOTH!!

Auetria (McCloud): A TYA-H; A BOH-H; A BUL-Con; F AEG-s-A Bul-Con; A SER-Bul.
 England (Olsen): F NWY-s-German A Swe; F NTH-H; F Mid-POR; F BEL-s-German
 A Par-Pic; F Bre-s-German A Par-Pic/d/-r-Eng, Mid, OTB.
 France (Hugh): A Pic-BRE; F GAS-s-A Pic-Bre; A Mar-SPA.
 Germany (Swartz): A BUR-s-A Mun; A RUH-s-A Mun; A MUN-H; A Par-PIC; F Hol-KIE;
 F DEN-s-A Swe; A SWE-s-English F Nwy.
 Italy (Palter): F Ion-EAS; F Nap-ION; A TUN-H; A Pie-MAR.
 Russia (J. Beck): A Sev-ARM; F BLA-s-A Sev-Arm; A Lvn-MOS; A STP-Nwy; F SKA-Nwy.
 Turkey (Gorham): A Arm-Sev/d/-r-Syr, Smy, OTB; A ANK-s-A Con; A CON-s-A Ank.

Winter 1904 AND Spring 1905 due May 13, 1983. *See Auetrian COA below in presel

1982CO 1904 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Ser, R Gre, BUL.....	(6)+1
England- Home, Nwy, Bel , BEL, POR.....	(6)+1
France- Mar , Spa, Par , Bel , BRE.....	(2)-1 (wae 1 short)
Germany- Home, Den, Hol, Swe, Par.....	(7) 0
Italy- Home, Tun, MAR.....	(5)+1
Russia- Home, Rum.....	(5) 0
Turkey- Home, ANK	(3) 0 (wae 1 short)

1982CO Press-

AUSTRIA: As of April 1, the new address for the Austrian Embassy is:

Larry McCloud, 425 Grand Canyon Blvd., Reno, NV 89502.

OLGA-BAKERSFIELD: Meow, meow, meow. (Freely tranelated: "I didn't lay a paw on Eleie, so there!")

FRANCE-WORLD: Have you ever heard a toilet flush? (From the inside!) There comes a time in every game when a player loses due to over-mounting pressures from the enemy and "click" - it's just like standing inside and pulling ye ol' dingle-dongle - the suction pulls you under. My hat's off to G-E for doing a commendable job - They've done the old corn cob in.

ENGLAND-FRANCE: I'm feeling pretty flush myself . . . wonder who will be my Tidy-Bowl Man in this game? Gary C. already possesses a cartoon depicting my ultimate fate, sob, eob, whimper, whimper. And do I get a word of sympathy from you?

RUSSIA-WORLD: The Tear wishes to announce that he has declared war on the Japanese in response to their brutally attacking our possessions in Manchuria. The Black Sea fleet will soon be leaving Europe to sail around Africa to sweep the Japanese from the seas. Victory will be ours quite soon.

OLSEN-CONCERNED MM READERS: Nobody mentioned that Gary had a joy buzzer concealed in his palm. Nobody mentioned that Eric was attempting to fuse our hands together. No, you get a very biased account of that epic meeting!

RUSSIA-ENGLAND: I think you misinterpreted my invitation. It was for my armiee to visit sunny Brighton. I'd love to come. Of couree, I'd move back to Moscow in the Fall, as I'd only visit in the Spring. What's wrong with A Lon-Mos??

((from Timothy R. Haffey - 2/20/83))

Dear Ron:

I My goal in DIPLOMACY is to win a game playing each country at least once. Someone told me that nobody had ever done that before. Is that true? ((Randolph Smythe and Edi Birsan (I think - Mark Berch would know for sure) have both won with every country, but they are the only two. Tim has won with Russia and Germany and is about to win one with Austria - RB))).

Well! I am still recovering from the shock of 1981AP. A draw for which neither draw participant voted for (or against) and was decided by the most minor country in the game? That seems to be pushing things a bit to me. Yes, I know rules are rules, that's what the Germans said, however, since this has happened to me before (in a game where my France had an excellent chance to win) I feel I should make a comment on the subject of NVR = 'Yes'. In fact, I think I will make several comments about it.

First, I think it is a direct contradiction of Rule II in "The Rules of Diplomacy", i.e., "... Players may terminate the game by mutual agreement before a winner is determined, in which case all players who still have pieces on the board share equally in a draw."

This means, to my mind, that each player must express agreement (mutual agreement the rule says). Someone once said: "Silence is golden." However, that does not seem to hold true in this case. Your contention, as well as others, is that a non-vote means that the player is in favor of a proposal. I find this reasoning difficult to understand.

Second; I surveyed my back issues of MM (all 54 of them) and failed to find any explanation of this rule. It just seems to have popped into your rules one day. However, in issue #53, you state, "It is not the GM's obligation to go around vetoing draws and/or concessions he feels aren't 'right'..." Well, I would contend that it is not the GM's obligation to go around ending games because the players didn't vote the way he feels is "proper". This, in my mind, is highly arbitrary and most unreasonable.

Third; another publisher, Al Pearson, or perhaps former publisher is more accurate, had the same crazy rule. He defended it by stating on page 3 in his #17 issue of JUST AMONG FRIENDS:

Currently the rule includes -- "no vote is a vote in favor of the issue; submitting orders and failing to vote is obviously a vote against the issue."

(Emphasis mine) Well, I think some players just forget to vote, so I am changing that section to read - "Failure to vote is a vote in favor of the issue. If a player submits orders and doesn't vote, he is voting for the issue."

This represented a major rule change for Al at the time and his only explanation was: "I think some players just forget to vote..." Talk about subjecting the publisher's feelings into the course of the game. Did you, or anyone else who uses this silly rule, ever stop to think that you are depriving every DIPLOMACY player in your games of a very strong and useful diplomatic weapon? Many times you may not be in favor of a proposal that is good for your ally, but you don't want to have to vote against it so you can tell your ally you didn't vote against it. This is a negotiating tool, a diplomatic weapon and even a sneaky stab in the right situation. I, personally, resent being deprived of this option. I also resent having my intentions interpreted by the Gamesmaster.

True, some players may forget to vote, but, on the other hand, some players may not want to vote preferring to veto by silence. I think Al Pearson's old rule - "... submitting orders and failing to vote is obviously a vote against the issue ..." is hitting the matter dead on the head. Now, if you want to consider a NVR as a yes vote, I could accept that without too much of a struggle, but, when I send in orders only to find that they have been completely ignored because I did not vote on some silly proposal in which I had not the slightest interest, my blood begins to boil.

((Con'd next pg.))

I pay to play DIPLOMACY, not to have my games disrupted by silly, pointless houserules. Someone, I forget who, said that this rule was necessary to keep games from dragging on forever simply because the players would not vote on the proposals. Whose games are these anyway? The players or the Gamemaster's? The players should always have the option of voting or not voting without being subjected to penalties imposed by the Gamesmaster~~x~~ to "move the game along."

Suppose the move is Spring 1901 and I propose a concession to whatever country I am playing or I propose a draw between two countries. All the other~~x~~ players think that it is a cute remark but they don't take it seriously, so, they don't vote on the proposal. However, I vote 'yes'. Are you telling me you would call a concession or draw to my country in the Spring of 1901 because nobody else voted on the proposal? If that is your contention and you are not willing to recognize the inherent unfairness of this rule, I would have to inform you that, that would be the last game I would play in, in your zine. Probably the others would feel ripped off as well.

Come on, Ron. Let's have a rule a little bit more realistic than this one.

PS I just returned from Clark Reynolds' "St. Valentine's Day Massacre II Tourney" in Sacramento. I just reread the ~~xx~~ foregoing and I hope it doesn't sound too unfair of your position. However, I stand by it. Let me tell you about the tournament. Aside from driving up in a heavy rain, driving back (to Oakland) in a massive traffic jam and getting eaten alive by the Sacto version of a mosquito (they like to sneak up on you when you are sitting on the toilet and bite you on the ass.) I had a great time. The tournament was GMed by Clark Reynolds, sort of. He gave everyone three pages of rules, none of which explained how the tournament would be ~~xscored~~. Big surprise! It turned out to be the Pacificon scoring system. Clark would come around at the end of each Fall turn and write down supply centers for his records and then disappear again until the next Fall turn.

The tournament had about 30 or so contestants and there was always at least one game going. Dave Grabar came late and left early and still won best England. I don't think he even played Italy. Toward the end, I got him into a game of "Russian Campaign" and my Russia beat the Panzers off his Germans. For the record; 1st place went to John Huestis, 2nd place to Rick Elfbrant who I believe said he was from Portland. 3rd place went to a real nice guy who said this was his first tournament. His name is Mark Twitty. Best country awards were some very nice plaques. Best Austria - G. Fitch; Best England - D. Grabar; Best France - J. Huestis; Best Germany - M. Twitty; Best Italy - Cathy Cuning (the only woman in the tournament, I think); Best Russia - M. Twitty (again); and Best Turkey - Mark Nielsen (a guy you love to hate).

I didn't win anything but I got some terrific mosquito bites. Honestly though, I had a lot of fun, too. One game I was in, I had to force Germany to win, can you believe that? What happened was that I was playing Turkey. Austria was ~~ipuppetting~~ puppetting for Germany and Germany was keeping me from taking him out. France was allied with me against Germany, however, he made a couple of mistakes and Germany got the upper hand and France agreed to help Germany in order to survive. So, I had France, Austria, and Germany all coming at me at the same time. Germany publicly said he was going to reward his good ally Austria with third place which meant that I had to go or at least be reduced below Austria. The final move had Germany, who was at 17 centers, attacking my A Sev to cut its support to my A Bul attacking into Rum which he was in at the time. At least that is what he thought he was doing. In the Fall move I simply moved my A Sev-Ank by convoy on my F Blk. This allowed Germany to move into Sev and win the game. I tied for second with France. Better than fourth, anyway.

Well, my hot breath has cooled off somewhat now and my wife is giving me freezing looks, so, I think I will end this for now.

Sincerely yours,
Timothy R. Haffey

((Con'd next pg.))

((Wow, Tim, you don't write often but when you do . . . thank you very much for your lengthy and interesting letter. I disagree with you on a few of your contentions. Before I go into detail on these points, I'd like to make sure you know that I feel one of the greatest aspects of this hobby is the opportunity to express one's opinion. I always enjoy hearing an opinion on a subject in which I am interested. I don't always agree with them, but everyone is invited to express them.

First of all, I can truly sympathize with you about 81AP. It's too bad the game ended in an E/I draw if your Turkey wasn't in agreement. The first question that comes to my mind is, "Why didn't you veto the draw vote when it was proposed?" You meant to? But you didn't. You are proposing that I read intent, or rather, try to interpret what that unstated intent of your non-vote was. I'm sorry. I flatly refuse to do so. Once, early in my gamesmastering "career", I presumed to do that. I thought I was doing the best thing and following the obvious (it seemed obvious to me at the time) intent, but non-stated, of the orders. After the results were mailed out I got an immediate long-distance phone call from a very experienced player, very angry that I had not followed his orders exactly as they had been stated. When I explained how I had followed what he had certainly "intended", he coldly replied that he did not know it was the gamesmaster's duty to interpret, but merely to adjudicate the moves he received. I was dead wrong and knew it. I felt like a real scumbag and promised never to do that again. I haven't. Not even in cases like yours where the "intent is clear".

Next, I personally feel that draw and concession proposals are a very real and valid and important aspect of a postal DIPLOMACY game. You must understand this if you want to play within these pages. When a draw or concession is proposed, it will pass if no one vetoes it. There is no excuse for a caring, interested player to "forget to vote". If you do, then you've got no right to complain about it. Hey, you know, it's just like real life when you don't vote on election day and some Geek gets elected governor or something. You don't like it, but you really can't moan and bitch if you didn't even take the time to vote. About the only thing you can really say about what happened with 81AP is that you disagree with the 'NVR'='yes' vote concept. There's two ways you can go about it. You can hold that no vote received constitutes a 'yes' to the proposal. The second way is to hold that no vote received constitutes a 'no' vote. You do it one way or the other and say so in your Houserules which it will be. From there it's up to the players. I happen to favor the 'NVR'='yes' vote. As a player I would much rather play in a game that does it this way. In many games you see players lose interest if they are losing. Many of these submit orders (sometimes perpetual orders) because they feel obligated but don't bother to vote on any proposals. They abstain, which is their right. Most don't care when the draw or concession finally passes. You know what I mean. We're talking about someone with one or two units left, usually in a somewhat hopeless position. A good illustration which demonstrates what I'm talking about comes from my own experience. In 1977HQ, one of my first games (and a game which just ended about 3 mos. ago) found my France down to a single unit in Portugal and totally surrounded by enemies. A power struggle emerged between two superpowers: Germany (Dave Grabar) and Turkey (Roy Henricks). My one solitary unit became a sort of "beleaguered garrison" caught between the two giants and therefore survived. My one unit remained in Portugal for I don't know how many game years; it seemed like 8. What did I do? I submitted the perpetual order: 'F POR-H' and ignored all proposals. That situation should not prevent a proposal from passing -- I certainly would not have wanted one to fail because of me. Quite the contrary, I wanted anything to pass so I could survive the game with one center! Well, this has really gone on enough I think. I don't expect you to agree with me; I just hope you can respect my opinion of how the best way to run a DIPLOMACY game should be just as I respect yours. Thanks for the information on the Valentine's Day Massacre. Sounds like another great time organized by Clark. Thank you for writing. - RB))

RRR (Con'd)

((I might as well go ahead and add a little bit more before going on to the next item. Mark Berch's latest DIPLOMACY DIGEST (#69?) covers the topic of games ending because of mix-ups on voting procedures and stuff and very much related to the matter discussed in Timothy Haffey's letter. Write to Mark at 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304 if you're interested in procuring a copy.

The other thing was a comment of Tim's that the rule just "popped" up one day. The Jan. 1981 revised Houserules state (#16): "All calls for a draw or concession must be unanimous to carry. Only the success or failure of the draw proposal will be published; all ballots will remain secret. NVR constitutes a 'Yes' vote on the proposal. If there are multiple draw proposals that pass, the draw involving the largest number of players will be the one that passes." If you vote for a non-existent proposal and NVR on a real one . . . well, I guess you know by know what the result is. . . winner

Next is the acceptance speech of this year's NIXON AWARD -- Mike Mazzer! - RB))

((from Mike Mazzer - "Biggest Liar of '82"))

I'd like to thank you, Ron, for this award and to thank Bob Olsen for his winning nomination . . . about the only thing he's won lately. I'm deeply moved, honored, and humble to receive this great distinction. Of course, I am the biggest liar in the hobby, so you can take that last statement for what it's worth. It is always nice to be recognized by one's peers, although as liars and scoundrels, I consider Ron and Bob peerless. Old Ron (I'm not going to NAF in '80HY) Brown is in a class by himself. And Bob has made a career out of cultivating a "poor boob that everyone walks on" image, while quietly picking people's pockets. And to be mentioned in the same august company as Al Pearson and Kathy "Bloodsucker" Byrne is beyond my wildest dreams. In the words of my fellow Californian, for whom this award is named . . . "I am not a crook!"

Mike Mazzer

((from Kathy Byrne))

Dear Canuckie,

Don't tell me you're not a Canuck -- California should be annexed by Canada -- first they gave us Grabar and now you!

How could you dare write in public that I consider Woody to be the best DIP player (pardon me while I choke!) in the hobby today. Grabar plays better than him. Dave does, too - ever see him do the hokey pokey - Woody is worthless - he isn't even good at finding subzines for his own zine that don't attack him! I demand a retraction - I never said that - I'd never get that drunk and I'd never be that insane!

Since I know the controversy kid is going to jump on Dick, let me be the first to say Bruce did indeed very seriously say, "controversy is more important than friendships". Dick and I, in particular, argued this point with him - his response was: Hey, if you and Dick want to become friends again that's your problem (more or less). Another interesting statement since I never knew Dick and I weren't friends. Neither did Dick. I guess we are both simple. We would rather have a friend than controversy.

Like Dick, you couldn't pay me to receive a zine that prints the trash Linsey prints. So now Julie's the target; how "Bruce-like" - forget the facts or feelings involved. Just go for controversy for controversy's sake.

Maybe some of us, should tell what we know about Bruce's strange relationships, in public; but then we'd be just like him.

z

(Con'd next pg.)

WRAP-UP

Thank goodness I'm finally finishing this issue up! I should have finished this typing last night but I was so zonked all I could do was crash on the couch instead! So it looks like this one will probably hit the mail tomorrow at the latest. Not too bad but I'd rather have it out a few days quicker. Oh well. As soon as I'm through with this issue I'm going to start work on an all-reading issue. I have some news, articles, letters, and more good stuff that I haven't had room for in the last series of 12 pagers so I'll either be cursing you or blessing you (depending upon your point of view) with one of those rare no-games-included issues soon. If you have an article you have been thinking about sending or writing and get it to me within two weeks, there's a real good chance it will show up in this next issue. I got a chance to talk to Mike (EMHAIN MACHA) Mills on the phone for the first time ever the other night when he called me about his Panzer-Battle tourney he's running (a SQUAD LEADER scenario). Mike mentioned that he enjoyed Coburn's article on the "Battle of Four Roads"; I hope there were others as well because this response has given me the motivation to write one as well! Hope you like it - it should be in the next issue. Well, I could go on with little announcements and the like but I'll save 'em for the next issue and quit for now. So all you little boys and girls remember out there -- don't play with sharp knives . . . leave them where they belong -- in a nice unguarded back!! Bye!

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MM STANDBY LIST

Regular DIPLOMACY - Larry McCloud, Dan Gorham, Jim Gray, Jim Bumpas, Jack Masters, John MacFarlane, John Beck, Al Rodriguez, Bill Hugh, Ron Kelly, Steve Arnawoodian, Mike Coburn, Jerry Lucas, Jim Williams, Stan Johnson, Scott Hanson, and Phil LaHue.

There is no charge for being on this standby list. Requests are made randomly and haphazardly. Thanks to all of the above good-guys!!

MACHAIVELLI - And the search goes on . . . any MACH players out there who would be a standby?

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GAME OPENINGS

REGULAR DIPLOMACY - MM-19 is just about filled. There are 5, I believe signed up now. The gamefee is \$6.00 plus a refundable NMR Deposit of \$3.00 is required. You must maintain a subscription to MM to maintain your position. Gray press will be allowed. Preference list is accepted and are a copy of the MM Houserules if you need them. Anyone else want in? Just about guaranteed to start in the next gaming issue of MM.

Dear _____:

You are cordially invited to play in the Invitational game. Are you interested? Please let me know!

MM-20 will be the last game of Reg. DIP for some time. It will be a special game as it will be the 20th game to be run in these pages (not counting a couple of orphans which finished up here as well). This game will be an Invitational Game. Only invited players will be allowed to play. There will be a Guest Gamemaster so that I may be one of the players. I will invite 14 players (counting myself) to play, figuring that there are some who will not feel they have the necessary time to play. There will still be a Gamefee (\$5.00) but no NMR Deposit required. If you are invited to play, please drop me a line and let me know ASAP. Thanks!

RRR (Con'd)

So I'll go with my grandmother's favorite saying, "If you can't find anything nice to say, keep your mouth shut!"

Thanks for your well wishes.

Take care,
Kathy

((from Mark "Faz" Fazzio)) (Feb. 14)

Hello Ron,

Happy Valentines' Day! Got my first MM today -- quite a nice zine! You have my compliments, and I look forward to a long sub-ship. Maybe I'll even "bless" you with a FazArticle (look for a good one in the next EE, a semi-OK one in TERRAN and a dud in SHOGUN'S SWORD). Anyway, maybe you'll get lucky and I'll break all my fingers!

A serious aside. The due date is 25 Feb! I just got the zine on the 14th -- is it always this close? I mean, if I write to someone, I have to sent it (say, 2-3 days), get a reply (2-3 more), then get a margin of safety to mail it to you (another 3 days). I mean, everyone literally has to write as soon as they get their issue. It hit me pretty quick, as I'm used to about 3 weeks of writing/sending in moves from receipt of zine 'till deadline.

Anyway, I hope it isn't always like this? Some guys nver write to begin with! Comments?

Take care; my best to you and Char. I'll keep in touch (the ol' imagination is beginning to crate!!)

Faz

((Thanks for writing, Mark, it's nice to hear from you. Faz just recently joined the subscription ranks of MM, so therefore he raises the questions above. If you have been a subscriber for long, you know that the deadlines are usually 4 weeks, sometimes three and sometimes 5, but usually 4. Now I really must apologize to you, Mark, and any others who were inconvenienced by the early deadline given in the above instance. I was in the process of working on #55 which had a deadline of Jan. 28. I really wanted the NIXON Winner to be announced in Feb. in the next issue. The only way was to make Feb. 25 (the last Fri. in Feb.) the deadline. Then the expected struck! I was a bit late in getting the issue out and the result was everybody only having about 2 weeks from receiving it until the following deadline. This will not happen often, but be forewarned that it might happen again. I remember when I first started publishing over 4 years ago it was easy getting issues out in a timely fashion. When Corey arrived (my 3 yr. old son) it became a little harder to find as much time. Since Andy got here (my 2 yr. old son) it has become progressively harder, and harder, and harder to get MM into the mails within 3-4 days of the deadline. This issue, for instance will not be in the mail 'till 7-8 days after the deadline. Sorry, but believe me, it's the best I can manage for now. If I continue publishing for a long time yet, when the boys get a little older it should become easier. We'll see. Anyhow, any articles you may have in mind for publication here are very welcome. I give sub credit for articles at the rate of 1 issue/typed pg. of material. Hope to see a "Faz-Article" soon! Thanks for writing. - RB))

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